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## Letter from Anna Clemson to Elias Baker, 1864 November 20

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confirmation.

We have had a good deal of sickness, & some deaths, among our old neighbours — Always sad especially as we grow older —

This uncertain state is very trying to me & sometimes I almost lose courage but I know God judges more wisely than we can conceive & I trust & know he orders all for the best.

We have had a beautiful fall, but I fear bad weather, & bad roads, are coming on us now. My kind love to Aunt Betty, & Anna, & regards to Sylvester —

Your attached niece  
Anna C. Benson

November 20<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Sir, I am truly sorry to hear you are too unwell to come down, & see about things at The Home, as I think they need, as you say, your presence, but of course, your health is the first consideration, & I trust, by care, you may soon recover your usual health.

I have a letter from Mr C, who says he is trying to rent for you. He is an excellent man, & will do I am sure all he can — About selling, I have told you I leave that entirely in your hands, & at your judgment. I am quite content with things, as they are, if the money is secured by bond & mortgage as I suggested in my two last. I really think that just, & necessary, to secure

as in all & any event.  
So far as Mr Bartholow is con-  
cerned, he has bought Dr Morris  
place, & is out of the question.  
I understand he gave a good  
price for it - much in advance  
of what the Dr gave, I hear.  
As to going South, that seems so  
far, impossible. I have tried in  
all directions, without success, &  
tho there are still two persons  
working for me, I confess I have  
but little hope of getting off, just  
yet, & take it for granted things  
will find me here. Still I may  
get leave, at any day, so I am  
anxious to get all in readiness,  
should it come unexpectedly.  
I am also trying for Calhoun's  
exchange. So far without result.  
He is well, but I dread a second  
winter for him, in that severe  
climate.

We have heard Sister Louisa  
here, about the arrest of Whinnie  
Washington. She has succeeded

in getting him out of prison on  
parole, to remain in Washington,  
& report himself every day to  
wait his trial "as one of Moreby's  
riders" A poor little deformed  
fellow who was riding peacefully  
along the road!!! She, (Miss D.,)  
is now in the city, trying to get per-  
mission to take him north, with her.  
She is looking wonderfully well,  
considering all they have al-  
ready suffered, & the anxiety  
she must feel for the future.  
Her description of the wanton  
destruction, & consequent suffering,  
in the Valley, is dreadful, & God  
only knows how the inhabitants  
will live thro this winter.  
We are trying to make ourselves  
somewhat comfortable, in our  
very open quarters. I suppose we  
can get thro up to the winter some how,  
but it is pretty cold, & comfortless -  
H. is not very well. One of her  
bad colds, but she has gone never-  
theless, to the Rock Creek neigh-  
borhood for a few days, as the  
Bishop is expected there, for